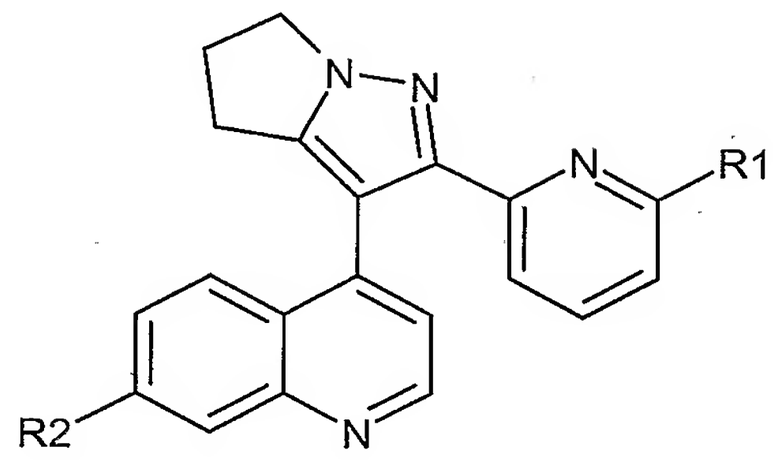
We claim:

1. A compound of the formula:



Formula I

wherein,

R1 represents hydrogen, halo, or (C1-C4)alkyl; and

R2 represents:

(a) aryl;

(b) aryl optionally substituted one to three times with a substituent independently selected from the group consisting of:

(i) halo,

(ii) amino,

(iii) nitro,

(iv) hydroxy,

(v) cyano,

(vi) (C_1-C_4)alkyl,

(vii) (C_1-C_4)alkoxy,

(viii) hydroxy(C_1-C_4)alkyl,

(ix) amino(C_1-C_4)alkyl

(x) hydroxy(C_1-C_4)alkoxy,

(xi) halo(C_1-C_4)alkoxy,

(xii) (C_1-C_4)alkoxy(C_1-C_4)alkoxy,

(xiii) trifluoromethyl,

(xiv) difluoromethyl,

(xv) trifluromethoxy,

(xvi) difluoromethoxy,

(xvii) (C_3-C_7)cylcoalkyl,

(xviii) COR^3,

(xix) (C_1-C_4)alkyl-COR4,
(xx) amino(C_1-C_4)alkyl- COR4,
(xxi) hydroxy(C_1-C_4)alkyl- COR4
(xxii) (C_1-C_4)alkoxy-COR5,
(xxiii) –C(NH_2)=N-OH
(xxiv) $NHSO_2R^6$,
(xxv) SO_2R^7,
(xxvi) $NHCOR^8$,
(xxvii) SOR^9,
(xxviii) SR^{10},
(xxix) $CONHR^{11}$,
(xxx) O–(CH_2)q–$NR^{12}R^{13}$, wherein q represents 1-4,
(xxxi) tetrazole,
(xxxii) methyltetrazole, and
(xxxiii) CONCH-$NR^{15}R^{16}$

(c) heterocycle;

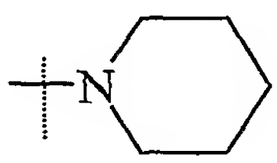
(d) heterocycle optionally substituted one to three times with a substituent independently selected from the group consisting of:
(i) halo,
(ii) amino,
(iii) (C_1-C_4)alkyl,
(iv) (C_1-C_4)alkoxy,
(v) halophenyl(C_1-C_4)alkyl,
(vi) (C_1-C_4)alkyl-(C_1-C_4)alkoxycarbonyl,
(vii) CHO,
(viii) COR^3, and
(ix) SO_2R^7,

(e) benzofused heterocycle;

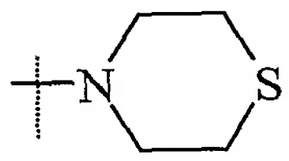
(f) benzofused heterocycle optionally substituted one or two times with a substituent independently selected from the group consisting of:
(i) halo,
(ii) amino,
(iii) (C_1-C_4)alkyl,
(iv) (C_1-C_4)alkoxy, and
(v) (C_1-C_4)alkylcarbonyl,

or (g) (C_3-C_7)cylcoalkyl;

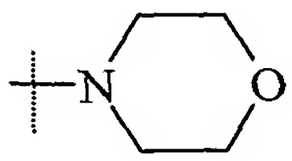
R^3 represents independently at each occurrence amino, hydroxy, (C_1-C_4)alkyl, (C_1-C_4)alkoxy, NH-(C_1-C_4)alkylamine, N,N-(C_1-C_4)dialkylamine, or a heterocycle selected from the group consisting of:



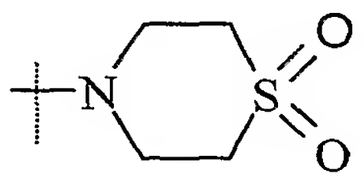
(a) ,



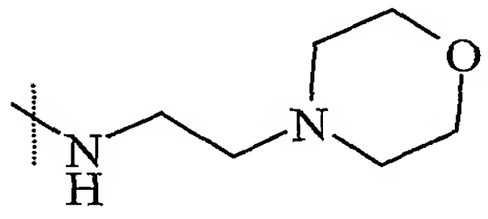
(b) ,



(c)



(d) , or



(e)

R^4 and R^5 represent independently at each occurrence amino, hydroxy, (C_1-C_4)alkyl, or (C_1-C_4)alkoxy;

R^6 and R^7 represent independently at each occurrence amino or (C1-C4)alkyl;

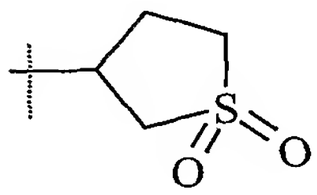
R^8 represents independently at each occurrence amino, (C_1-C_4)alkyl, or (C_1-C_4)alkoxy;

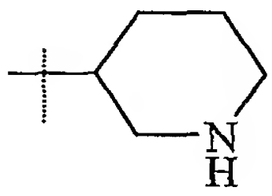
R^9 and R^{10} represent independently at each occurrence (C1-C4)alkyl;

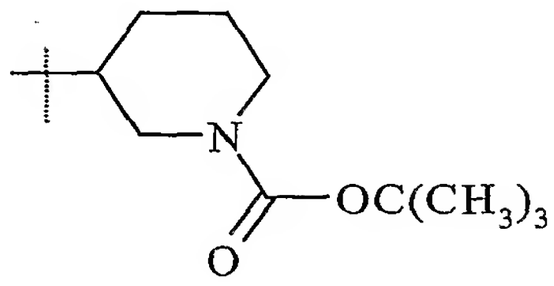
R^{11} represents independently at each occurrence (C1-C4)alkyl or a substituent selected from the group consisting of:

(a) $-(CH_2)_n-X-Y$

(b) $-CH(COR^{14})-(CH_2)_m-X'-Y'$

(c) 

(d) 

and (e) 

wherein,

n and m each independently represent 0-4;

X and X' represent independently at each occurrence –CO-, -CH_2-, -NH-, -S-, or –SO_2-; and

Y and Y' represent independently at each occurrence amino, hydroxy, (C_1-C_4)alkyl, (C_1-C_4)alkoxy, (C_1-C_4)alkoxycarbonyl, NH-(C_1-C_4)alkylamine, or N,N-(C_1-C_4)dialkylamine,

provided that where X or X' represents S, then Y or Y'' is not amino or hydroxy;

R^{12} and R^{13} represent independently at each occurrence hydrogen or (C_1-C_4)alkyl, or R^{12} and R^{13} together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a piperidino, pyrrolidino, morpholino or a methylpiperazino group;

R^{14} represents independently at each occurrence hydroxy, amino, or (C_1-C_4)alkoxy; and

R^{15} and R^{16} each represent independently at each occurrence hydrogen or (C_1-C_4)alkyl,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A method of treating congestive heart failure comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of the compound according to Claim 1.

3. A pharmaceutical composition comprising as an active ingredient a compound according to Claim 1 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.

4. The use of a compound according to Claim 1 for the manufacture of amedicament for the treatment of congestive heart failure.